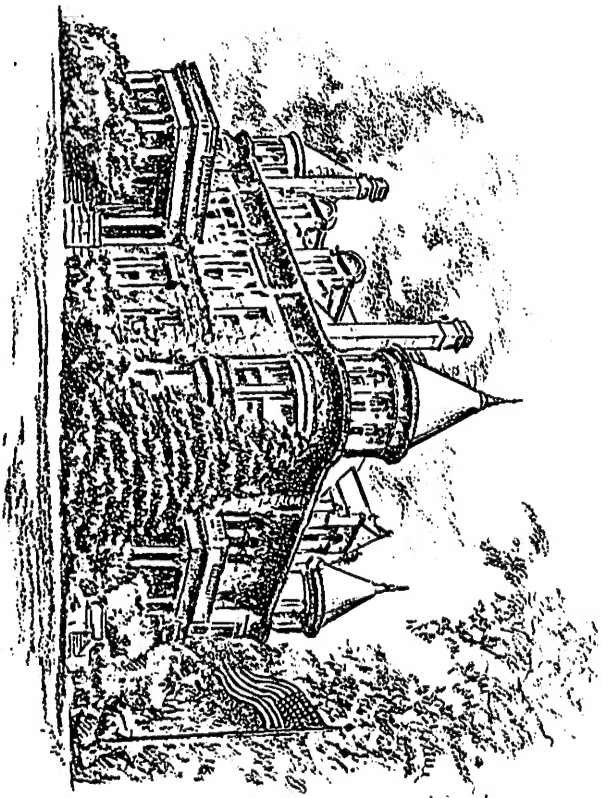


**UTAH  
STATE  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**





THE KEARNS

In the waning years of the nineteenth century Thomas Kearns, Irish-Catholic "Silver King" of Utah picked a spot to build a mansion. He picked well. It was a large corner lot on the north side of rich fashionable Brigham Street looking down toward the rapidly spreading southern boundaries of young Salt Lake City. The legend goes that as a young boy, son of immigrant parents in Canada and then Nebraska, he had "dreamt he dwelt in marble halls." So it was that when he came West in the 1880's Tom was looking for fortune in the mineral-rich lands of Utah. He was twenty-eight years old when his Silver King Mine paid off.

By the time Thomas Kearns was forty he was a United States Senator, friend of presidents, world traveler, publisher (*Salt Lake Tribune*), and philanthropist (Kearns

St. Ann's Orphanage). The names of Tom and Jennie Kearns and their children had been permanently woven into the social, political, economic, and religious life of the state. Dwell in marble halls he did.

## THE MANSION

The Mansion on East Brigham Street had thirty-two rooms when it was finished in 1901, including an all-marble kitchen, six marble bathrooms, bowling alley, ballroom, billiard room, two parlors, two dining rooms, and three vaults for silver, jewels, and wine.

During the first thirty-seven years of the twentieth century, the family occupied the Mansion, but for twenty of those years the house was without a master, for Tom died in 1918. Then in 1937 Jennie Kearns gave her home to the state of Utah to be used as a Governors' Mansion.

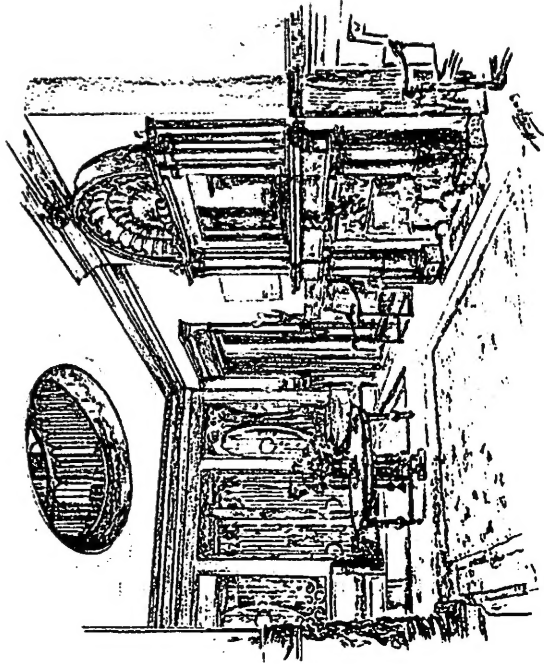
Three governors of Utah (H.H. Blood, H.B. Maw, J.B. Lee) lived in the Mansion for twenty years until 1957, when it became the home of the Utah State Historical Society to be used for its editorial offices, research library, and state archives. Here the visitor to Utah can see Tom Kearns' marble halls, stop if he cares to, and read awhile the rich history of a western state.

It is the intention of the Society that this lovely old home shall be preserved and kept open to the public to provide a show place of the genteel life that Utah's mineral resources produced for one of the state's foremost families.

# YOUR GUIDE

You have entered the Mansion through the carriage entrance, where once the horse-drawn vehicles of church men, miners, politicians, financiers, and presidents of the United States stopped to let their occupants alight. The hallway has a floor of handset ceramic tile, one of the few such floors in Utah. The wood-panelled walls and the floating staircase are made of French oak, hand carved by artisans imported from Europe for the job. If you turn into the main hall you will see on either side columns carved with allegorical scenes - "The Rape of the Sabines" and Botticelli's "Graces."

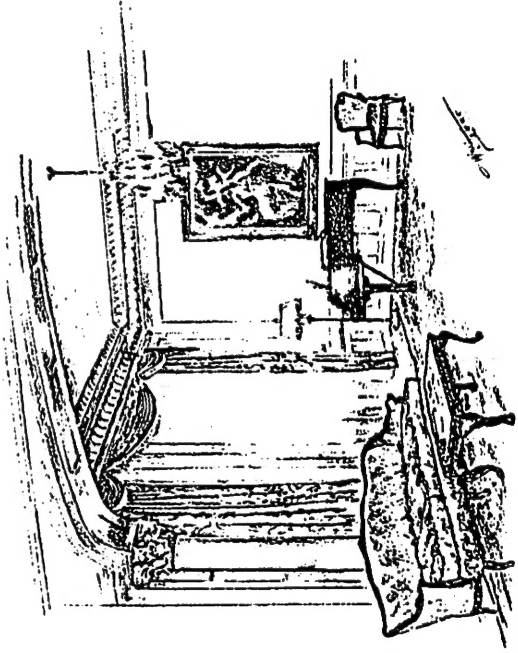
Walk the length of the hall beneath the graceful oval ceiling well. At the end of the hall is the front entrance, the massive iron and glass doors, and the foyer



lined with African and Roman marble. Just inside the front door stands the bell from the Battleship Utah, a casualty of the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

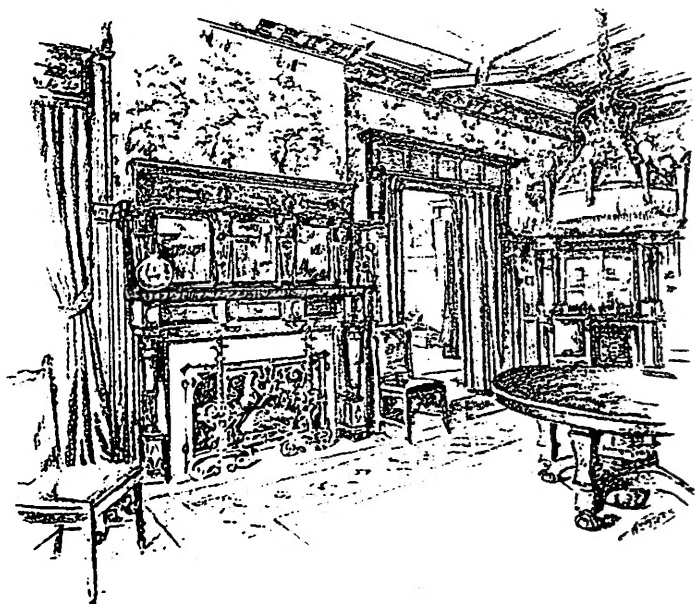
On the west of the front hall is the state drawing room, converted early in the history of the Mansion from two parlors, the Louis XVI and the Moorish Parlor. When the governors moved into the house this room was redecorated again by a local artist who selected the colors from two art treasures of the Kearns family - the beautiful, handmade, French rug and the original Seignac oil painting - which remained in the Mansion. The furniture in the room was purchased at this time.

The beauty of this room has been enhanced by several gifts to the Society, which include furniture, art objects, a painting, and the grand piano.



The first room on the east of the front hall is the library. The Flemish oak panelling stained black, contrasts beautifully with the unusual coloring in the plastercast ceiling and the fine, pink marble of the fireplace. A display screen lets you view photographs of the Mansion as it was when the Kearns family lived here.

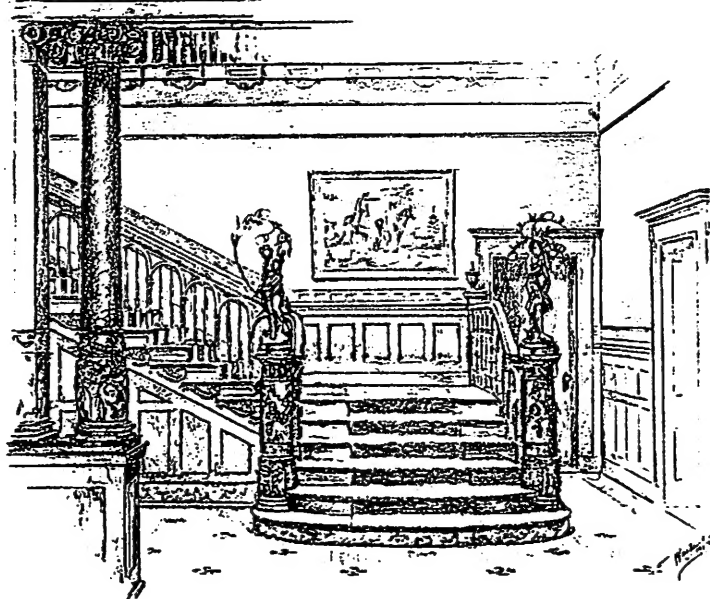
The second room on the east side of the hall is the museum piece of the Mansion. Preserved in its original beauty, the "state dining room" gives off a red glow from the mellow red-stained mahogany. Reportedly, all the wood in this room, furniture, walls, and ceiling beams, came from mahogany trees in the Ural Mountains of Russia. The upper walls with indirect lighting, are covered with tapestry, handmade for the room. Dominating the center of the room above the massive table is a



bronze chandelier and on the walls are matching wall brackets.

The Persian rugs in the hallway were added when the Mansion became the home of Utah's governors. But the round, oak table and the heavy, oak benches are typical of the early decorations, as are the figures on the newel posts at the foot of the stairs. These figures were done by the French sculptor Moreau and were brought from the Paris Exposition of 1900 by Senator Kearns.

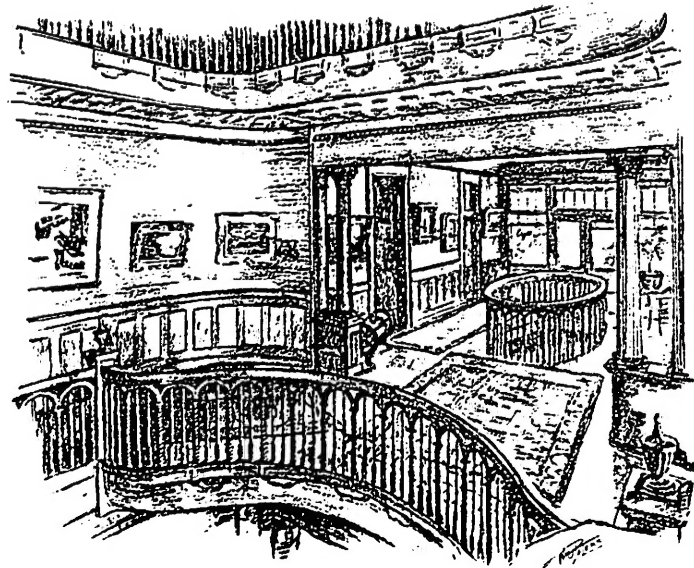
You are welcome to climb the stairway and walk about the hall of the second floor. Here were the bedrooms and guest rooms of the family, and later of the governors. The same fine attention was given to the selection of the wood and the working of it by the craftsmen as on the main floor of the Mansion.



The paintings hanging throughout the mansion have, for the most part, been done by Utah artists, past and contemporary. Some of these have come to the Society as gifts, but most belong to the Institute of Fine Arts, on loan to the Society. The drawings of historic buildings and scenes hanging in the second floor hall were done by Carlos Andreson, and the sculpture is mainly the work of Ortho Fairbanks.

At the south end of the second floor hall, doors lead onto the marble loggia where Theodore Roosevelt once sat to watch a parade passing below.

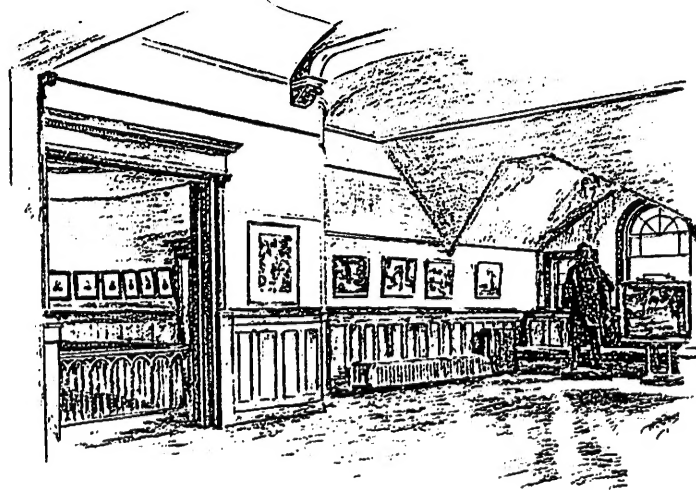
The principal alterations which have been made in the Mansion were made on this floor. Some of the woodwork was painted when the governors lived here, and the lighting has been modernized by the Society.



The second floor rooms are used now as administrative offices and library. The rooms at the north of the second floor, once the nursery, are now offices of the State Archives.

The former bedrooms of the Kearns, and later the governors, at the southeast of the second floor, house the Society's library. The rooms directly across the hall contain the photograph collection of the Society, editorial space, and the director's office.

Go up to the third floor. At the top of the stairs turn on the light in the golden dome and walk around the hall and look at the pictures of Utah's governors from the time she was the State of Deseret. To the south is the ballroom or gymnasium, while to the west is the billiard room. These rooms now serve as galleries where contem-



porary Utah painters exhibit their work for the public. The rooms on the north are used as offices for the Military Records Section of the Society.

As you walk back down the stairs you may like to think about the exciting time when a poor young man could dig a fortune out of the earth and organize it into an economic force strong enough to influence the affairs of a nation and build for his family a French Renaissance castle filled with marble, silver, fine wood, and precious art.

Your tour of the Mansion has not included the basement, which at one time contained a wine vault and a two-lane bowling alley. The basement is now used for library stacks and archives vaults. Here are found the earliest records of Utah's colorful past. Only rarely are re-

searchers allowed to work in this area, and the general public is excluded.

If your tour has generated some questions, feel free to ask the receptionist. She will gladly describe to you the program of the Utah State Historical Society and show you our publications which describe and interpret Utah's history.

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Through a desire to further the discovery and preservation of Utah's history to the end of understanding better her spiritual and physical resources, I make application for membership in the

UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
603 East South Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Please find enclosed:

Five dollars for regular membership ☐

Three dollars for student membership ☐

One hundred dollars for life membership ☐

To cover membership for year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_